

**Draft Summary of Public Meeting
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
November 15, 2000**

The Department of Water Resources hosted a Public Meeting on November 15, 2000 in Oroville to allow interested parties an opportunity to learn the status of current activities associated with the Oroville Facilities Relicensing process. Meeting attendees were given a brief presentation and informed of the Department's intent to use the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Alternative Licensing Procedures (ALP) as it seeks renewal of its hydropower license.

The ALP encourages use of a collaborative approach that involves DWR working cooperatively with Federal and State agencies, Indian tribes, local public agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other interested parties to develop environmental and operational studies which will contribute to preparation of a balanced license application.

A summary of major items discussed at the meeting is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting; the intent is to summarize major discussion items for informational purposes for interested parties who could not attend the meeting.

- A draft of the proposed Communications Protocol document was sent to interested parties for comment and review in July. DWR received and incorporated comments from several interested parties and a revised draft is available on the Oroville Facilities relicensing web site.
- DWR met informally with various stakeholder groups to discuss the status and progress of the relicensing process. Several stakeholder groups have statutory conditioning authorities to mandate certain requirements that will influence the relicensing process.
- DWR stated that its formal request to use the ALP will be submitted to FERC on November 17, 2000. Once received, FERC will notice the appropriate agencies, interest groups and publish a notice in the Federal Register. FERC has 60 days to consider the request and notify DWR of their finding.
- A proposed three-tiered Group Structure was introduced and discussed. The Group Structure will be presented to the Plenary Group for adoption.
- A review of various ways interested individuals may provide input and actively participate in the relicensing process was discussed. The Oroville Facilities relicensing web site, E-mail address, toll-free number, forthcoming quarterly newsletter, public meetings, environmental review process, and FERC's review process were presented as various means for public input and involvement.
- A set of Ground Rules was discussed and will be presented for adoption by Plenary Group and Work Group participants.

After the brief presentation, meeting attendees were invited to provide additional comments on interests and issues associated with relicensing the Oroville Facilities. The additional comments will be added to the initial list of issues and interests compiled at the June 29, 2000 Public Briefing. A listing of the additional comments received on November 15, 2000 is provided below.

- Lake Davis Northern Pike entering into Lake Oroville should be aggressively addressed and successfully eliminated. Accommodate working people's schedules for meetings.
- Develop a swimming lake at Loafer Creek recreation area.
- Widen Highway 162 and encourage all levels of government to widen HWY 70 into Oroville.
- Develop alternate route from Lake Oroville area going from east to west Miners Ranch Road converging with Foothill Blvd and out to Ophir Rd to HWY 70.
- Restore and improve recreation resource along the river corridor from the dam to the wildlife area.
- Clearly identify flow rates and temperature requirements downstream of the dam.
- Enhance, preserve, and maintain Craig Access Park.
- Open the diversion dam as trail linkage. Create trail linkage from diversion dam to old railroad grade at the railroad trestle. Open west side of river from fish barrier dam to Burma Road as recreation area. Move fence back from river bank at fish hatchery and develop trail from the Table Mountain bridge past the HWY 70 bridge.
- Look at future and reliable funding sources including operation costs.
- Develop land access on the north side of the lake. Look at revenues from power generation and potential to put into community.
- Build and develop Lime Saddle Memorial Park to capacity of 250 campsites, swimming beach, and a boat ramp for campers use. Have a full-time biologist for the lake in addition to Eric See (DWR). Desires to see a balanced fishery.
- Increase communication on issues related to present land use around Lake Oroville so that it shifts from unutilized land to utilized land. Identify cultural resources on State (DWR) land and discuss potential development.
- Coordinate efforts for flood control in the Feather River and Yuba River watersheds.

- Develop DWR work crews to remove non-native plant species around lake, river, forebay, and afterbay areas especially starthistle, alanthus, and other invasive plant species identified by our local Weed Management Area.
- Develop smaller primitive style campgrounds (tent) particularly around the Enterprise boat ramp.
- Establish and locate an area for the bass tournaments to include water, electricity, parking, vendors, boats, etc. Establish another multi-purpose dam on the west branch of the Feather River.
- Fully consider the value of undeveloped primitive and natural areas for wildlife and recreation. Also in considering cultural endeavors achieve equal opportunity for all people.
- What was promised 30-years ago? What was delivered? Wants to make sure the process fulfills the expectations of the community.
- Obtain an economist to evaluate the implications of the promises versus “delivery” and get a clear understanding of the community’s perspective of the last 30-years.
- Desires to see development of a Maidu cultural center; wants access to the center.
- Have local industry purchase electricity and water from Oroville Facilities at a favorable rate, i.e., at the same rates as Southern California. Consequently, we can lure more industry to the local area; consider this as an immediate opportunity.
- We need more cultural education in this area (Oroville). Develop a fund for community education to resolve disputes between various groups and create better understanding.
- Dry storage for boats on trailers at Lake Oroville and North Forebay. Develop campgrounds at the Afterbay. Develop a management structure and funding for aquatic center programs at the north Forebay to bring boat handling and boating safety to the public.
- Develop a swimming facility within the lake or in the community to swimming opportunities that were lost. Improve access to the lake from the north.
- DWR continue its active involvement in the community to develop recreation concurrently with the relicensing process.
- Develop equestrian center(s) accessible to established trails at Oroville Lake Recreation area to include a good arena and rental and boarding stables. Finish

building the California riding and hiking trail from Lake Oroville to the Pacific Crest trail.

- Establish a lake level study to evaluate feasibility of holding the lake level relatively constant through summer months.
- Develop facilities at the south forebay to support competitive power boating events including grandstands, flushing toilets, campgrounds.
- Make site improvements on existing flying sites for model airplanes.
- Wants DWR and DFG to work together to preserve hunting and fishing opportunities in the Afterbay and borrow areas.
- Wants to see more biking trails that are separate from hiking and equestrian trails. Wants to see unpaved status of the railroad grade multi-use trail preserved. If paving is proposed, consider Burma Rd as being more cost effective with no conflict of use. Immediate restoration of public vehicle access at Lakeland Boulevard to the old railroad grade area of the diversion pool with future consideration of improvements in the same area. Wants all future recreation development plans including all State Agencies to notice all members of the public. (No more secret meetings.) Wants to see an endurance trail separate from existing trails perhaps around the lake and connecting to the Pacific Crest trail. Preserve Dan Beebee trail as an historical equestrian and hiking trail.
- Wants to see a plan developed that has a local structure that will ensure the plan is carried out.
- Add Saturday meetings.